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REPORT

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MINISTRY OF

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

OF

WILTON,

For the Year Ended 31st Dec., 1925.

Wilton :
The Wilton Printing Works, North Street.

Report.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 1,850.

Population, census 1921, 2,011. Estimated 1925, 2,004.

Physical features and general character of the area :— Wilton is a small town situated at the junction of the valley of the Wylye with that of the Nadder. It is shut in by hills, and the greater part of the town is built on very low-lying land.

As a result the climate is damp and relaxing ; catarrhal complaints, rheumatism, and rheumatoid conditions, with their crippling effects on the circulatory system, are very prevalent.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 592.

Number of families, or separate occupiers (1921) 576.

Rateable Value £12,078 11s. 6d. Sum represented by a penny rate £36.

Manufactories of carpets, felt and whiting are carried on in the district. No deleterious effect on the public health has been found associated with these industries. Generally the health of the workers in these industries is good.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	Male.	Female.	
Births	Legitimate	46	28	18	Birth Rate 23·40 per 1000.
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Deaths—		34	14	20	Death Rate 16·96

No woman died in, or in consequence of childbirth.

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 births, Legitimate, 43·47. Illegitimate, 0. Total 42.55.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 0

„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... 0

Amount of Poor Law Relief, £208. There were 27 cases receiving Poor Law Medical attendance. There has been no specially noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the area, nor has any condition of occupation or invironment appeared to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or Subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

1. *Tuberculosis* : Harnwood Hospital at Harnham and Sanatorium accommodation at Winsley are available for this district through the County Authorities.

(2). *Maternity* : In cases of need beds are available at Salisbury Infirmary.

(3). *Children* : There is no special provision made.

(4) *Fever* : The Joint Districts Isolation Hospital, Salisbury.

(5) *Small-pox* : There is a Small-pox Hospital at Salisbury available for this district.

(6) *Other* : The Salisbury General Infirmary is available for this district.

There is in the area no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities: (a) For infectious cases—An Ambulance is sent from the Joint Districts Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases—An ambulance can be hired from the Salisbury Fire Brigade.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. There is in the district an Infant Welfare Centre, provided by a committee of ladies, supported by voluntary contributions, by the payment of a small fee by the mothers attending the meetings, and by a subsidy.

There are in Salisbury, available for the district, and in association with Salisbury General Infirmary, a County Tuberculosis Dispensary, a Venereal Diseases Centre, and an Orthopædic Clinic.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

There is a part-time Medical Officer of Health, who is also Medical Officer of Health to the Wilton Rural District Council, Medical Officer to the Wilton Poor Law Institution, Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Wilton and part of the Stapleford Districts, Medical Officer to the Post Office, Certifying Factory Surgeon, and Medical Visitor in Lunacy, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Borough Surveyor, who is a member of Inst. of Municipal and County Engineers, and holds Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Inst. (San. Insp.), Special Meat Inspector's Certificate, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes, and is a Member of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association (Certificate of San. Insp.). Contribution is made to these salaries under the Public Health Acts.

Professional Nursing in the Home. (a) General—

There is a Nursing Association, working in co-ordination with the Wilts County Nursing Association, employing two nurses, both of whom are certified midwives. These nurses attend to the needs of Wilton, South Newton, Wishford, Burcombe and Barford St. Martin.

The association is financed partly by subscriptions and donations, partly from fees, and grants in aid are received from the Board of Guardians and the Trustees of the Wilton United Charities.

(*b*) *For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles &c.* There is no arrangement.

Midwives. The two nurses referred to above are certified midwives and practise in the district. There is also one registered midwife practising in the district independently.

Chemical Work. None has been required. If any was required it would probably be done by the County Analyst.

Legislation in Force. There are byelaws with respect to :—Cleansing of Footways and Pavements and Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools: Nuisances from snow, filth, keeping animals; the management of a Cemetery; Slaughterhouses. Dating from 29th April, 1891.

New Building Byelaws were adopted on 27th August, 1924.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. The Town Water Supply is ample in quantity and of excellent quality, though hard. The supply is constant from a small reservoir to which the water is pumped from waterworks. As the situation of the reservoir is too low to maintain a constant supply to some parts of the town, water is pumped directly into the mains for several hours each day. The roof of the reservoir is of thatch to which the surface of the water in the reservoir is exposed.

The supply is drawn from springs in Water Ditchampton free from possibilities of contamination. The water is not of a plumbo-solvent character. No action has been required during the year with respect to any form of contamination.

Rivers and Streams. It has been necessary from time to time to warn inhabitants of houses close to streams who have been throwing rubbish into the streams. No other pollution has occurred.

Drainage and Sewerage. The Sewerage is disposed of to the Wilton Rural District Council's sewerage scheme for Bemerton and dealt with by that Council. Cases of leakage of water into the sewers have been dealt with. The sewers are periodically inspected, flushed and disinfected. Surface water is carried off by a different system of pipes and is delivered into the river Nadder at Quidhampton. The arrangements are sufficient.

Closet Accommodation. Approximate number of water closets, 580; of pail closets, 8; of privies, 2. There has been no conversion during the year. Whenever it can conveniently be arranged conversion is made to the water carriage system.

Scavenging. An average of eight loads a week — four hundred and twenty during the year—have been removed to a refuse dump in an old chalk pit on the Wilton Road, used jointly with the Wilton Rural District Council. It is hoped that this crude, primitive and unsatisfactory method of disposal will soon be replaced by a more sanitary arrangement.

Endeavours are constantly being made to encourage the replacement of old boxes by moveable sanitary ashbins with proper covering. Progress in this matter is lamentably slow.

Number of Inspections	Nature of Inspections.	Number of Notices Served.			Nature of Defects Discovered.
		Statutory.	Informal.	Result.	
30	Houses	0	4 (verbal request)	4 Defective houses render'd habitable	New floors, paving to yards, new W.C's, sinks & ashbins, new drains, and gully traps.
60	Nuisances	0	Verbal request	Sufficient in all cases	Blocked drains, manure heaps, keeping hens in dirty state.
8	Schools	0	Verbal request		

During the year new sanitary accommodation was put in at the Church Room and at the Boys' Club.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been required during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.

There are none in the district.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring notice.

There are none.

Schools.

The water supply is good and sufficient. The sanitary condition could be improved, but is sufficient when properly looked after. Whenever the schools are closed for infectious disease, which is done by the County Authority, occasion is taken to have them thoroughly disinfected before re-opening.

Housing.

(I) *General housing conditions in the area.*

(1) General housing conditions are tolerable, but many houses suffer from the defects of age.

(2) (*a*) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.—There is a shortage of about twelve to twenty.

(*b*) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage—The Council has power to sell three and a half acres of recently acquired land for building purposes. It is hoped that it may be possible to get working class houses built on this land by private enterprise.

(3) There have been no important changes in population during the period under review, nor is any anticipated in the future.

(II) *Overcrowding.*

(1) Extent. Not serious; the chief difficulty is the inability of those who wish to marry to get houses.

(2) Causes. Want of houses.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding. The endeavour to get new houses built referred to above.

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken. There were no cases requiring action during the year.

(III) *Fitness of houses.*

(1) (*a*) General standard of housing in the area is fair.

(*b*) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses. The defects resulting from bad planning and age.

(*c*) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by the owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants. No cases have been found.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—

(*a*) The Public Health Acts. None.

(*b*) The Housing Acts. No houses have been condemned since 1923.

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925. No serious difficulties have been encountered. Verbal request has always sufficed.

(4) Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters. These conditions are satisfactory and no measures have been required.

(IV) *Unhealthy areas.*

No complaints have been received, nor has any action been required.

(V) *Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let as lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc.*

There are no byelaws on these matters, nor are any required.

(VI) *General and Miscellaneous.*

Information as to the proper use of household fittings (*e.g* , sinks, water closets, taps. etc.), and as to the disposal of household rubbish is acquired in the course of the inspector's ordinary duties.

Housing statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*)) 3

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

(I) By the Local Authority 0

(II) By other bodies or persons 0

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 8

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 4

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 4

2. *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 4

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) by owners 0

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) by owners 0

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(*a*) *Milk Supply.*

The milk produced within, or brought into the area is good and wholesome. The arrangements for supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character are generally adequate.

(I) No action has been required with regard to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

(II) No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations ; nor has any apparatus been licensed for the pasteurisation of milk.

(III) There has been no refusal nor any revocation of registration of retailers, nor of licences for graded milk.

(IV) No bacteriological examinations of milk have been made.

(*b*) *Meat.*

(I) Meat inspection is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector, who holds the special meat inspector's certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. He is notified of, and attends all slaughtering in the district, and examines all the meat. No meat has been condemned during the year, the general standard of meat being good.

(II) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. As regards shops, vehicles, and stores, these have been complied with. There are no stalls in the district.

(III) There is no public slaughter house in the district.

Private slaughter houses in use in the area.	In 1920	In Jan., 1925	In Dec., 1925
Registered ...	2	2	2
Licensed ...	0	0	0
Total	2	2	2

(*c*) *Other Foods.*

There are three bakehouses in the district. These are regularly inspected and are kept clean; but it has been necessary to issue informal notices to have necessary lime washing carried out.

(*d*) There have been no cases of food poisoning in the area.

1. *Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.*

Premises.	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	14	0 (Verbal have always sufficed)	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	8	0 ,,	0
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	0	0	0
Total	22	0	0

Particulars.	Number of Defects :			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	0	0
Want of Ventilation	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of Floors ..	0	0	0	0
Other Nuisances	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation.				
Insufficient	1	1	0	0
Unsuitable or Defective	0	0	0	0
Not separate for Sexes	0	0	0	0
Offences under Factory & Workshops Acts.				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses	0	0	0	0
Other offences	0	0	0	0
Total ..	5	5	0	0

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108. There is none in the district.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1925 in the Wilton Urban District.

Disease	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.	20-35	35-45
Small Pox																	
Scarlet Fever			1										1	0	0		
Diphtheria		1	1	2		5	1	1	3				14	13	0		
Enteric (including Paratyphoid)																	
Puerperal Fever																	
Pneumonia			1			1		1	1	4			8	0	3	1	2

Infectious Diseases generally since 1920.

In 1921 there was one case of Scarlet Fever notified, which was removed to the Isolation Hospital. No other cases occurred in the district that year.

There were two cases of Dysentery. They were both in the same house, which has since been pulled down. The origin of the infection could not be traced, but the W.C. pan was found to be faulty, so steps were taken to get it replaced.

In May there was a small epidemic of Whooping Cough, followed at the end of the same month by one of Measles sufficiently severe for the schools to be closed for the first seventeen days of June.

In 1922 and 1923 there was no case of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria in the district, nor was there any particular epidemic of non-notifiable infectious disease.

In 1924 there were two cases of Scarlet Fever which were removed to the Isolation Hospital. At the end of the year a case of possible Diphtheria was seen. A swab proved negative and the patient rapidly recovered. In the spring there was a fairly severe epidemic of Whooping Cough, on account of which the Infant's school was closed from the middle of March until the end of the Easter holidays.

In 1925 there were outbreaks of Diphtheria in January, in May, June and August. Four out of the five cases in January occurred in one family in one house. On neither occasion was the outbreak severe, the patients being sent to the Isolation Hospital. There was one case each notified in September and December. The case in December came from the same house as did a case in June. Investigation has since discovered a carrier who may have given the disease to these two patients and possibly others.

One case of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year. This was in a visitor, and occurred within a few days of arrival in the district. Hospital treatment was refused, but no other case has occurred in the district since.

There was an unusually large number of Pneumonia cases notified during the year. Most of them were of a very severe type, and there were several fatal cases.

One case which was notified as Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, and was sent to the Isolation Hospital as such, was proved, post mortem, to be a case of Tubercular Meningitis. No case of Encephalitis Lethargica has yet been notified in the district. No return case of Scarlet Fever has occurred since 1920.

There have not yet been any cases of Malaria or Trench Fever notified. Two cases of Dysentery were notified in 1921 and are referred to above.

Pneumonia is notified when it occurs.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined in the Pathological Department of the General Infirmary, Salisbury, under arrangements made by the County Authority. Carrier cases, when discovered, are sent to the Isolation Hospital for isolation and treatment.

No use has been made in this district of the Schick and Dick tests.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

No deaths were certified during the year as occuring from Influenza.

There have been no cases occuring in the district of Anthrax or Rabies.

Verminous persons are sent to the Poor Law Institution for disinfection and disinfestation. Their belongings and and houses are thoroughly disinfected and the houses cleansed and whitewashed.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0			1				1	
1								
5								
10			2	1		1		1
15		1				1		
20								
25								
35			1				1	
45			1					
55								
65 & upwards								
Totals		1	5	1		2	2	1

There were no cases of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations,1925.

No action has been required.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been required.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

(3) There were no cases of Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Poliomyelitis in the district, nor any other infectious disease particularly affecting parturient women, infants and young children. No methods had to be adopted to diminish mortality and permanent injury to health caused by these diseases.